

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 MCT-01 /072 W  
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R 121516Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 485

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 7794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, ET

SUBJ: ELF DELEGATION MEETS WITH TOP SARG OFFICIALS

1. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED ARRIVAL OF ELF CHAIRMAN AHMAD NESSER, ABDULLAH IDRIS, CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COUNCIL, AND ABDULLA SULAYMAN, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS BUREAU, TO DAMASCUS NOV. 2. MEDIA REPORTED THEY RECEIVED BY BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICE FAWWAZ SAYYAGH. DURING THIS MEETING THEY DISCUSSED LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA AND ISSUE OF UNIFYING VARIOUS ERITREAN FACTIONS. SAYYAGH STRESSED BAATH PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR UNITY OF ERITREAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AND INDEPENDENCE OF ERITREA FROM ETHIOPIA.

2. FOLLOWING DAY NASSER MET WITH BAATH PARTY DEPSEC GEN AHMAR TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON ERITREAN SITUATION. NASSER, ACCORDING TO PRESS, EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO ALMAR FOR BBTHI SUPPORT OF ERITREAN MOVEMENT.

3. PRES. ASAD  
RECEIVED ERITREAN DELEGATION LED BY NASSER  
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NOV. 8 TO REVIEW ERITREAN SITUATION. ASAD REAFFIRMED

SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN MOVEMENT. DELEGATION DEPARTED  
DAMASCUS NOV. 10.

4. ITALIAN EMBOFF PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF VISIT.  
HE TOLD US THAT NASSER WANTED TO KEEP SARG INFORMED OF  
EVOLUTION OF ELF-PLF UNIFICATION EFFORTS AND REQUESTED  
FURTHER LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE AND AGREEMENT TO TRAIN  
ERITREAN COMMANDOS IN SYRIA. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN,  
TEN ERITREANS RECENTLY GRAUATED FROM LOCAL TRAINING IN  
WIRELESS OPERATION AND TEN COMPLETED MEDICAL PROGRAM.

5. ITALIAN ALSO TALKED WITH REP OF OSMAN SABBE'S PLF  
AND WAS TOLD THAT MAIN OBSTACLE TO ELF-PLF UNITY WAS A  
FIELD COMMANDER NAMED SIAS AFORKY. AFORKY ALLEGEDLY IS  
FORMER MEMBER OF PLF WHO REFUESED TO IMPLEMENT DECISION  
TAKEN BY PLF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO UNIFY TWO GROUPS.  
SABBE REPORTEDLY SUSPECTS AFORKY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY  
ETHIOPIAN AUTHORIITIES TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS IN NAME  
OF EITREAN CAUSE. ITALIAN INFORMED THAT SABBE HAS  
DEPARTED FOR KHARTOUM.

6. COMMENT: FROM DAMASCUS VANTAGE POINT, IT APPEARS  
ELF-PLF UNIFICATION EFFORTS STILL UNCOMSUMMATED AS TENSIONS  
BETWEEN ERITREAN MILITARY FIGURES IN FIELD AND POLITICAL  
LEADERS ABROAD CONTINUE. WE PERCEIVE NO DIMINUTION OF SYRIAN  
SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN CAUSE.

MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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